

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A display device having at least one picture element having an optical switch comprising at least one first fluid and a second fluid immiscible with each other above a first support plate, the second fluid being electro-conductive or polar which display device has driving means for applying to electrodes of the optical switch voltages associated with a range of electro-optical states of the picture element between and including a first extreme state and a second extreme state said driving means providing during selection of a picture element variable voltages to said picture element prior to applying a fixed voltage to the display device ~~having a non-zero voltage associated~~ with an electro-optical state of the picture element to be set, wherein the variable voltages are selected to comprise a set of alternating voltages having one of a mean voltage, a root mean square voltage and an average voltage, substantially equal to the ~~non-zero~~ fixed voltage that is associated with the electro-optical

state of the picture element to be set, wherein the fixed voltage is a voltage that is not equal to zero volts.

2. (Previously presented) The display device according to claim 1 comprising the fluids within a space between a first transparent support plate and a second support plate.

3. (Currently amended) The display device according to claim 1 in which the variable voltages comprise a set of alternating voltages having a mean value substantially equal to the ~~non-zero~~fixed voltage associated with an electro-optical state of the picture element to be set.

4. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The display device according to claim 3, wherein the variable voltages comprise a DC part and an AC part, the maximum and minimum voltages of the alternating voltages having a root mean square average value substantially equal to the fixed voltage associated with an electro-optical state of the picture element to be set.

5. (Withdrawn) The display device according to claim 4 comprising different time periods for parts of the variable voltage curves

having voltage values above said root mean square average value and parts of the variable voltage curves having voltage values below said root mean square average value.

6. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The display device according to claim 1, said driving means providing preceding voltages to a picture element prior to said voltages associated with the electro-optical states.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The display device according to claim 6 in which the preceding voltages comprise a set of alternating voltages having an average value substantially equal to the ~~non-zero~~fixed voltage associated with an electro-optical state of the picture element to be set.

9. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The display device according to claim 1 in which in driving at least one picture element, the amplitude of the preceding voltages decreases.

10. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The display device according to claim 7 in which in driving at least one picture element, the frequency of the preceding voltages increases.

11. (Withdrawn) The display device according to claim 7 in which the preceding voltages have different values for different parts of the display.

12. (Withdrawn) The display device according to claim 7 in which the preceding voltages have different polarities at a given time for different parts of the display.

13. (Withdrawn) The display device according to claim 6 in which the preceding voltages comprise a voltage to said picture element bringing the picture element into one of the extreme states.

14. (Withdrawn - currently amended) The display device according to claim 1, said driving means providing after at least one selection period of a picture element, driving voltages of opposite polarity to said picture element.

15-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The display device according to claim 1 wherein the variable voltage includes one of the first and second extreme states.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The display device according to claim 1, wherein the variable voltages have an amplitude at a beginning of the variable voltages and smaller amplitude at an end of the variable voltages prior to applying the fixed voltage.

22. (Previously presented) The display device according to claim 1, wherein the variable voltages have decreasing pulse time periods prior to applying the fixed voltage.